



14 November 2024

Kate Sanderson
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Support Services
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

Dear Ms Sanderson,

Re: Coronial Investigation Finalised – Coronial Investigation Finalised - George Diamond (COR 2019 000968)

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Coroners Court of Victoria for the letter 19 September regarding the Investigation into the death of George Diamond.

Requested responses to the following recommendation:

Recommendation 2. ***The Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), in conjunction with Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians (ACSEP) should consider developing appropriate mandatory training for medical practitioners in relation to providing medical clearance for individuals to commence and return to boxing and other combat sports.***

RACGP Response to recommendation 2 pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act:

The RACGP already provides ongoing training and education opportunities for both GPs in training and qualified GPs, including in providing medical clearance for individuals to return to a range of sports.

GP Registrars undertake a long period of supervised clinical practice before becoming specialist GPs. During their training period, if there is a presentation in clinical practice, requiring medical clearance for sport, GP trainees will be supervised by an experienced GP on providing this clearance.

The RACGP does not support mandatory training as GPs already complete 50 hours of CPD each year on a range of conditions and topics, and throughout their career. The College uses various avenues to provide education and support including [continuing professional development](#) opportunities, [peer reviewed publications](#), links to [endorsed clinical guidelines](#), newsletters and [news articles](#), all of which include specific information on the management of head trauma, concussion and medical clearance for return to sport. In addition, GP trainees are taught to refer to clinical guidelines, resources and further education and access advice from a wide range of evidence based sources such as the following:

- [Concussion in Sport Australia position statement](#) – an initiative of the Australian Institute of Sport, Australian Medical Association, Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians and Sports Medicine Australia,
- [Guideline for acute management of mild to moderate head injuries in children](#) – by the Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative (PREDICT), this is an RACGP Endorsed Clinical Guideline



- [Information for Medical Practitioners on Concussion in Australian Sport](#) from the Concussion in Australian Sport website – an initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Institute of Sport. This information includes training modules for medical practitioners

Last year, the RACGP also provided a submission to the inquiry into concussions and repeated head trauma in contact sports and [published the submission on its website](#). The College welcomed the recommendation from this inquiry for the establishment of a National Sports Injury Database to help track the impact of sports head injuries.

Recommendation 3. ***The Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM), consider developing guidelines to be followed in respect of patients presenting with mild head injuries but resulting from potentially dangerous mechanisms and which fall outside the scope of the Canadian CT Head Injury/Trauma Rule (CT Head Rule) and also include the appropriate threshold for undertaking a CT Scan or MRI of a person's brain where injury has occurred in a boxing or mixed martial arts context.***

RACGP Response to recommendation 3 pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act:

Topics for RACGP written clinical guidelines are selected based on the criteria that the guideline will be of frequent use by members, because no appropriate guidance already exists and where there is potentially a wide variation in usual care with an evidence-practice gap.

In this instance, the RACGP wouldn't develop the guidelines but would consider GP representation if other organisations were to develop guidelines.

We hope that this information is useful. If you have any further questions about the above, please contact RACGP State Manager Alice Crowley via vic.faculty@racgp.org.au

Yours Sincerely,

Anita Muñoz
RACGP Victoria, Chair